

# Joe A. Gumm



Joe A. Gumm was born Dec. 20, 1935, on his family farm near Elkins. He grew up working that land and later added the farm where he and his wife Vonda now live. He attended Elkins High School and WVU.

Besides his contributions as a beef producer and 15 years as a dairy farmer, Gumm has been extremely active in using and promoting conservation activities, working to secure resources for conservation programs and promoting the use of workable practices on the ground.

He currently serves as President of the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD). He has been a District Supervisor and Officer for the Tygarts Valley Conservation District for 35 years. He started the Conservation District Lime Program and later developed it into the Ag Enhancement Program we know today. He represented the WVACD at the National Association of Conservation Districts. As President of the WVACD, he enlisted a number of partner agencies to help with conservation efforts, including NRCS, FSA, WV Division of Forestry and others.

Gumm helped to establish, was Finance Committee Chairman, and has served for 24 years on the board of the WV Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition.

He has also been instrumental in the Elkwater Fork Municipal Water Supply Dam, the state Multiflora Rose Control Program and the Allegheny Highlands Project, which was designed to help farmers improve their grassland management practices.

He has been active in the National Watershed Coalition and the Ohio River Basin Alliance, and served as President of West Virginia Resource Conservation & Development. He was Chairman of the WesMonTy RC&D and a member of 30 years. He sits on the WesMonTy Solid Waste Authority Board. He has also been one of the driving forces behind the Appalachian Grazing Conference, Camp Pioneer and numerous 4-H projects. Gumm is a member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, has served on the Southern States Board, is a member of the Randolph County Solid Waste Authority and is a member of the United Methodist Church at Gilman.

He is the recipient of the Carroll Green Award, which recognizes the Conservation Supervisor of the Year, and also was named the Conservation Farmer of the Year.